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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO. [redacted]

TOPIC Military Information from the Templin Training Area

EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED [redacted]

DATE OF CONTENT mid-November to 22 December 1951

DATE OBTAINED [redacted] PARED 25 January 1952

REFERENCES [redacted]

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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On the evening of 5 December 1951, a train which carried 28 JS-2 tanks, including No 313, and had come from the direction of Oranienburg, was unloaded at a temporary loading platform at the Vogelsang railroad station, 12 km southwest of Templin (N 54/U 81). The tanks subsequently assembled in convoy formation and drove to Camp Vogelsang. The loading platform was dismantled on 6 December.

On 16 December, a convoy of 4 model M-13 rocket launchers and 6 trucks, each carrying 20 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets, left Camp Vogelsang and passed through Zehdenick toward Oranienburg. [redacted]

[redacted] A short time later, the convoy was followed by 3 trucks [redacted]. Each truck carried 20 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets.

On 20 December, 10 T-34 tanks, including Nos 59 and 75, left Camp Hammelspring, moving to the Templin railroad station where they were entrained.

[redacted] gunfire and explosions were repeatedly heard from all over the Templin training area at day and night during the period from 4 to 20 December.

Several columns of from 6 to 8 tanks passed through Zehdenick, coming from the direction of Falkenthal and proceeding toward Camp Vogelsang, on 3, 4, and 5 December. A military train which passed through Zehdenick on 6 December, coming from the direction of Loewenberg and proceeding toward Templin, carried 8 T-34 tanks, 3 observation vehicles and 1 boxcarload of soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. [redacted] Fire from tank guns was heard from the training area throughout the daylight hours on 4 December and on the following days.

During the nights between 9 and 17 December, troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets were repeatedly observed detraining at the Templin railroad station. They were usually organized into platoons and marched through Templin toward the training area at Kannenburg. Tank, artillery and other types of ammunition were unloaded at the Templin railroad station between 12 and 17 December. The ammunition had arrived from the direction of Eberswalde by rail and was trucked off to the Kannenburg area immediately upon being detrained.

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7. On 21 December, source learned that Camp Kannenburg was being guarded by about 30 soldiers. Five trucks with billeting equipment and [redacted] were seen driving to the camp.

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8. Between 7 and 16 December, intensive gunfire was heard from the direction of the Templin troop training grounds. [redacted]

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9. Individual rounds of artillery fire were heard from the training area north of Zehdenick at intervals of 3 to 5 minutes for one hour a day during the period from 17 to 22 December. Fire from rocket launchers was heard for about one hour on 18 December. Local residents said small-scale field exercises by units of platoon and company strength without weapons were conducted west of Roeddelin, southwest of Templin during the days prior to 16 December.

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10. Two units, each of about 100 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets and baggage, boarded regular passenger trains in Oranienburg on 14 and 15 December respectively, changed trains in Loewenberg and proceeded toward Templin. About 150 to 180 troops with baggage went from Templin to Hammelspring aboard a regular passenger train on 22 December. The troops had come by train either from Fuerstenberg or the direction of Eberswalde. \*

11. The following envelopes were found in the Himmelpfort/Forest, southwest of Iychen, in mid-November:

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Postmark DateMailed from

3 September 1951  
3 September 1951  
10 September 1951  
5 September 1951

Stavropol Kray  
Rostov Oblast  
Rostov Oblast  
Chelyabinsk  
Oblast  
Moscow

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\* Comment. The reciprocally confirmatory information by five sources indicates that units of small size still conducted record firing at the Templin troop training grounds. [redacted]

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